

## CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method for performing on a computer system an unload of a hierarchical database utilizing a segment specific selection criteria, comprising the steps of:

5        receiving said segment specific selection criteria wherein said segment specific selection criteria comprises a global directive and a set of segment directives;

      reading a database definition for said hierarchical database;

      building a logical processing map utilizing at least said global directive, said set of segment directives and said database definition;

10       reading a segment from said hierarchical database; and

      writing said segment to a target unload file if said segment has a type identified by said logical processing map and said segment is not an excluded root segment.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said segment is not an excluded root segment if said  
15       segment specific selection criteria does not comprise an inclusive key list.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said segment specific selection criteria further comprises an inclusive key list.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein said segment is not an excluded root segment if said segment is a root segment and said root segment contains a key, wherein said key is identified by said inclusive key list.

5 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said segment is an excluded root segment if said segment is a root segment and said root segment contains a key, wherein said key is not identified by said inclusive key list.

10 6. The method of claim 1 wherein a control file comprises said global directive and said set of segment directives and wherein said receiving step comprises reading said control file.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein a control file comprises said global directive and an identifier for a segment selection file, and wherein said receiving step comprises reading said control file and said segment selection file.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein said global directive indicates a global bias to either include or exclude segment types from said logical processing map.

20 9. The method of claim 8 wherein a segment directive selected from said set of segment directives indicates a segment specific action to either include or exclude a segment type from said logical processing map.

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10. The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing said target unload file as a source file to perform on a target database an operation selected from the group consisting of merge, mass update and mass insert.

5 11. A method for performing an unload operation on a hierarchical database utilizing a segment specific selection criteria, comprising the steps of:

providing said segment specific selection criteria wherein said segment specific selection criteria comprises a global directive and a set of segment directives;

providing the name of a target unload file;

10 providing the name of said hierarchical database; and

invoking a segment specific unload utility wherein said global directive, said set of segment directives, said name of said target unload file and said name of said hierarchical database are made available to said segment specific unload utility, and wherein at least one segment from said hierarchical database is written to said target unload file in accordance with said segment specific selection criteria.

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12. An article of manufacture for use in a computer system tangibly embodying computer instructions executable by said computer system to perform process steps for unloading a hierarchical database utilizing a segment specific selection criteria, said process steps comprising:

- 5       receiving said segment specific selection criteria wherein said segment specific selection criteria comprises a global directive and a set of segment directives;
- reading a database definition for said hierarchical database;
- building a logical processing map utilizing at least said global directive, said set of segment directives and said database definition;
- 10       reading a segment from said hierarchical database; and
- writing said segment to a target unload file if said segment has a type identified by said logical processing map and said segment is not an excluded root segment.

13. The article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein said segment is not an excluded root segment if said segment specific selection criteria does not comprise an inclusive key list.

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14. The article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein said segment specific selection criteria further comprises an inclusive key list.

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15. The article of manufacture according to claim 14 wherein said segment is not an excluded root segment if said segment is a root segment and said root segment contains a key, wherein said key is identified by said inclusive key list.

5 16. The article of manufacture according to claim 14 wherein said segment is an excluded root segment if said segment is a root segment and said root segment contains a key, wherein said key is not identified by said inclusive key list.

10 17. The article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein a control file comprises said global directive and said set of segment directives and wherein said receiving step comprises reading said control file.

15 18. The article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein a control file comprises said global directive and an identifier for a segment selection file, and wherein said receiving step comprises reading said control file and said segment selection file.

19. The article of manufacture according to claim 12 wherein said global directive indicates a global bias to either include or exclude segment types from said logical processing map.

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20. The article of manufacture according to claim 19 wherein a segment directive selected from said set of segment directives indicates a segment specific action to either include or exclude a segment type from said logical processing map.

5 21. The article of manufacture according to claim 12 further comprising utilizing said target unload file as a source file to perform on a target database an operation selected from the group consisting of merge, mass update and mass insert.

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22. A computer system for unloading a hierarchical database utilizing a segment specific selection criteria, said computer system comprising:

a computer;

first computer program instructions for receiving said segment specific selection criteria

5 wherein said segment specific selection criteria comprises a global directive and a set of segment directives;

second computer program instructions for reading a database definition for said hierarchical database;

10 third computer program instructions for building a logical processing map utilizing at least said global directive, said set of segment directives and said database definition;

fourth computer program instructions for reading a segment from said hierarchical database; and

15 fifth computer program instructions for writing said segment to a target unload file if said segment has a type identified by said logical processing map and said segment is not an excluded root segment.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein said segment is not an excluded root segment if said segment specific selection criteria does not comprise an inclusive key list.

20 24. The system of claim 22 wherein said segment specific selection criteria further comprises an inclusive key list.

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25. The system of claim 24 wherein said segment is not an excluded root segment if said segment is a root segment and said root segment contains a key, wherein said key is identified by said inclusive key list.

5 26. The system of claim 24 wherein said segment is an excluded root segment if said segment is a root segment and said root segment contains a key, wherein said key is not identified by said inclusive key list.

10 27. The system of claim 22 wherein a control file comprises said global directive and said set of segment directives, and wherein said receiving step comprises reading said control file.

28. The system of claim 22 wherein a control file comprises said global directive and an identifier for a segment selection file, and wherein said receiving step comprises reading said control file and said segment selection file.

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29. The system of claim 22 wherein said global directive indicates a global bias to either include or exclude segment types from said logical processing map.



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30. The system of claim 29 wherein a segment directive selected from said set of segment directives indicates a segment specific action to either include or exclude a segment type from said logical processing map.

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